

Martin Aaron Incorporated
1542 South Broadway Camden City Camden County
BLOCK: 637 LOT: 1

Community Relations Coordinator: Karen Kloo (609) 777-1971

SITE DESCRIPTION/RESOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

Martin Aaron, Inc. site is located in a densely populated section of Camden City. Several companies operated drum recycling businesses at the property for approximately 30 years, ending in the late 1990s. A site inspection by the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety in 1987 revealed hundreds of improperly stored drums of hazardous wastes, evidence of buried drums and soil contamination. State authorities served the owner and operator of the facility with a notice of civil penalty and directed them to perform a remedial investigation to determine the extent of the contamination at the site. However, the owner/operators failed to respond to the directive and eventually abandoned the facility and filed for bankruptcy. Rhodes Drum, Inc., a separate drum recycling facility, continued to operate on a small portion of the site until 1999. Between 1995 and 1997, NJDEP's Remedial Response Element implemented two Interim Remedial Measures (IRM) to address the drums and other surface materials. Approximately 700 drums of chemical wastes, 10,000 empty drums and 33 dumpsters of mixed waste were removed during the IRMs. The City of Camden subsequently demolished and disposed of the building. NJDEP implemented a third IRM in 1999 to remove five underground storage tanks and almost 900 tons of contaminated soil from the property. In 1999, USEPA added the Martin Aaron facility to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites (NPL). NJDEP completed a Remedial Investigation (RI) in 2000 that revealed the soil and ground water at the site is highly contaminated with organic compounds and metals. USEPA assumed the lead for the site in 2000 and is conducting supplementary RI work, which will be followed by a Feasibility Study (FS). USEPA will use the findings of the RI/FS to select the final remedial actions to address soil and ground water, which will be outlined in one or more Records of Decision (ROD) for the site.